

Melinda Montovani, Social Worker and Brain Injury Specialist
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Good Day Chairpersons and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee,

My name is Melinda Montovani and I have the privilege of working for the **Brain Injury Alliance of CT (BIAC)**, where we have been CT's partner in brain injury prevention and recovery for more than 30 years. We provide services to the entire state of CT.

I am submitting this testimony in support of Raised SB No. 373: An Act Limiting Changes to Health Insurers' Prescription Drug Formularies.

I have worked at the Brain Injury Alliance of CT and have been receiving calls to our Helpline for the past 10 years. I speak with individuals with brain injury, family members, and professionals. Recovering from a brain injury is complicated and individuals are often left with physical, emotional, and cognitive challenges. Treatment is complex and varied. Finding the correct medication can be a timely and painful process. Once it is found it would be extremely detrimental for an individual to have to stop taking it abruptly because of loss of coverage on their health insurance plan. The impact of stopping a medication could have ramifications physically and has the potential to effect cognition and mood stability and thereby alter ability to function in daily activities. This could create significant setbacks in the recovery process that may not be able to be repaired.

RB No. 373 would offer protections and safeguard individuals who rely on medication. I am in support of this bill, the Brain Injury Alliance of CT on behalf of individuals with brain injuries supports this bill and we ask that you support it too.

Thank you.